

DECISION RECORD

San Juan Islands National Monument Routine Maintenance; Non Native
Plants, Invasive and Noxious Weed Maintenance

OR 130-2014-CX-0001

Bureau of Land Management

San Juan Islands National Monument

P.O. Box 3

Lopez Island, WA 98261

Decision and Rationale

It is my decision to implement the San Juan Islands National Monument Routine Maintenance; Non Native Plants, Invasive and Noxious Weed Maintenance as described in the attached document (OR-130-2014-CX-0001) and shown on attached map. These actions meet the need and will accomplish the purposes for action.

Areas within the San Juan Islands National Monument have nonnative plants, invasive and noxious weeds which pose a resource impact to native plant communities. Routine maintenance will be accomplished treating areas of nonnative plants, invasive and noxious weeds utilizing manual labor by cutting with no intentional ground disturbance. As described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation, it is not anticipated that the project actions will have significant effects.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM San Juan Island National Monument Office, PO Box 3, Lopez, Washington 98261, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Wenatchee Field Office as noted above. The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413); Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

/s/ Marcia deChadenedes

2/10/2015

Marcia deChadenedes,
Monument Manager, San Juan Islands National Monument

Date

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District
1103 North Fancher Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

A. Background

BLM Office: Spokane District

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

NEPA Log Number: OR-130-2014-CX-0001

Proposed Action Title: San Juan Islands National Monument Routine Non-native Plant, Invasive and Noxious Weed Maintenance.

Location of Proposed Action:

Projects are located in multiple locations across the San Juan Islands National Monument area on BLM-administered lands in Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties (see attached maps).

Description of Proposed Action:

All rocks, islands and headlands of the San Juan Islands National Monument which have vegetation also have non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds. Specifically, areas in / around grassy exposed meadows and shaded forests are resulting in invasion (expansion) of himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), english sweetbriar and english holly, english ivy, spurge laurel, Canadian and bull thistles species (see map). In order to protect native plant populations from non-native plant infestations, these areas are in need of routine treatment. Due to recent inventories which have been performed over the past several years and have identified specific non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds, the need for treatment is immediate. The BLM proposes to treat areas of invasive and noxious weeds within the San Juan Islands utilizing Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff, volunteer stewards, and local youth corps.

Using hand tools such as loppers, clippers, and power tools such as weed-eaters and brush cutters to cut non-native plants and weeds at ground level. There would be no pulling of non-native plants or weeds. Additionally, there would be no ground disturbance activities. The BLM would not treat non-native plants that have been identified by the Spokane District Botanist where manual cutting may encourage growth, including english holly, english ivy and spurge laurel. The BLM would provide training and conduct monitoring to ensure that target plants are properly controlled and removed. The BLM would remove excess material from sites and dispose of it in appropriate San Juan County transfer locations. Primarily, all activities would be performed from April through November.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Spokane Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: Approved 1987/Amended 1992

☐ *Option 1 (conforms with LUP):* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

OR

☒ *(Option 2: not explicitly provided for in the LUP)* The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (*objectives, terms, and conditions*):
There is no land use plan covering BLM lands in western Washington. In accordance with land use planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.8 (b) (1)), a proposed action on such lands may be authorized if supported by appropriate analysis.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with

43 CFR 46.210(f) Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g., limited size and magnitude or short-term effects). This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.215 apply, as shown in the following table:

CX EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION The proposed categorical exclusion action will:		YES	NO
(a)	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action of removing non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds which have been identified, does not pose a significant impact on public health or safety.			
(b)	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In this action the non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds which have been identified for removal, do not pose significant impacts on the above mentioned areas. The non-native plant population densities are not at levels which pose a significant impact to these resources.			
(c)	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The removal of non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds which have been identified are not highly controversial or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action of removing non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds which have been identified are not highly uncertain and do not have a potential significant environmental effect or unique or unknown environmental risks.		
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action does not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individual insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects.		
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action does not have a significant impact to the eligible National Registered Historic Places of Patos Island Lighthouse and the Turn Point Light Station located on Stuart Island or the properties in these areas.		
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action does not have a significant impact on listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat for bald eagles, southern resident orcas, yellow paintbrush, shaw island townsend vole, island marbled butterfly or other identified flora and or fauna.		
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action does not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. This action provides direct measures to manually treat non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds.		
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action does not have a disproportionately high and or adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		
(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This action does not limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. This action of removing non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds will allow native plant communities to succeed and naturally protect areas and concerns mentioned above.		
(1) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This action of removing non-native plants, including invasive and noxious weeds directly contributes to the success of the Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112.		

F: Signature

/s/ Marcia deChadenedes
(Authorizing Official Signature)

2/10/2015
(Date)

Name: Marcia deChadenedes
Title: Monument Manager

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Nick Teague, Outdoor Recreation Planner, 360-468-3754.

Note: A separate decision document must be prepared for the action covered by the CX.

